

Acton Community Preservation Committee
Minutes from 1/23/03

Attending: Walter Foster, Andrew Magee, Catherine Coleman, Peter Berry, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Peter Grover, Mimi Herington, Roland Bartl

Roland began the meeting by stating that his role as the Town “staff person” is to support the Committee from a planning standpoint. He noted that the approved minutes from each meeting should be filed with the Town Clerk at Clerk@Town.Acton.MA.US. He will set up a group email for this committee.

Walter: He suggested we wait until the next meeting to elect a chair, as several people were not able to attend the meeting. A quorum for this committee consists of 5 people. He announced that the amount we should expect at the town level (assessed amount) for this fiscal year is \$478,344.21. We will receive most of the money by the 4th quarter. There was a discussion regarding the State Matching Funds.

Walter reiterated that part of the framework of the CPA is that it cannot be repealed for a period of 5 years once a town has adopted it. There is the possibility that a petition could be filed to reduce the surcharge. The expected amount (478K) does not include exemptions (which people must apply for). The tax bills have gone out and an overlay account will be established that would cover any charge-backs. People must apply for regular exemptions within 30 days once they have received their tax bill (though there currently is no timeline specified in the CPA). Twenty people have inquired about exemptions to date. It is important that we get as many exemptions completed as possible so that we know how much money we are working with. The Committee discussed publicizing the possible exemptions (in the Beacon, Acton Unlimited, Town Website) to maximize exposure to all citizens.

The Committee reviewed the CPA By-Law.

Walter will ask Town Counsel about reimbursing the Town for work that has already been done for the CPA (i.e., taxing and processing exemptions). Every CPA expenditure must be approved at Town Meeting. Walter will find out what needs to happen in order to get access to the 5% of the CPA that can be used for administrative purposes.

We need to develop a multi-year plan for going forward. That will involve putting in place a process for prioritizing the projects. The Master Plan is an operative document.

Next Meeting: Feb. 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204 at Town Hall